

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-41 (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method comprising:

receiving digital credential information from a relying party at an authentication service, wherein the digital credential information is indicative of a first user being professionally licensed but has been received by the relying party from an unauthorized user;

verifying that the digital credential information is valid using professional license status information that has been stored for a plurality of users;

providing verification information indicative of a valid professional license of the first user from the authentication service to the relying party; and

providing information from the authentication service to the first user, the information indicative of ~~receipt~~ the provision of verification information indicative of the valid digital credential information from professional license to the relying party,

wherein the relying party, the unauthorized user, and the first user are distinct from each other.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein providing information to the first user comprises providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein:

the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and

the method further comprises, prior to providing the verification information to the relying party, verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein:

the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and

the method further comprises verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42,
further comprising:

storing access information associated with the relying
party, the access information including information indicative
of the providing the verification information; and

providing the access information to the relying party.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42,
further comprising providing information indicative of a failure
to authenticate the digital credential information associated
with the first user to a second relying party.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42,
further comprising at least one of the relying party and the
authentication service issuing a challenge in response to
receiving digital credential information associated with the
first user.

50. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-
readable medium embodying information indicative of instructions
that when performed by one or more machines of an authentication
service result in operations comprising:

receiving digital credential information from a relying party at the authentication service, wherein the digital credential information is indicative of a first user being professionally licensed but has been received by the relying party from an unauthorized user;

verifying that the digital credential information is valid using professional license status information that has been stored for a plurality of users;

providing verification information indicative of a valid professional license of the first user from the authentication service to the relying party; and

providing information from the authentication service to the first user, the information indicative of ~~receipt~~ the provision of verification information indicative of the valid digital credential information from professional license to the relying party,

wherein the relying party, the unauthorized user, and the first user are distinct from each other.

51. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein providing information to the first user comprises providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

52. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50,
wherein:

the professional license status information comprises
registration information indicative of a professional license
registration status with a registration authority; and

the operations further comprise, prior to providing the
verification information to the relying party, verifying the
registration information with the registration authority.

53. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50,
wherein:

the professional license status information comprises
registration information indicative of a professional license
registration status with a registration authority; and

the operations further comprise verifying the registration
information with the registration authority.

54. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50,
wherein the operations further comprise:

storing access information associated with the relying
party, the access information including information indicative
of the providing of the verification information; and

providing the access information to the relying party.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein the operations further comprise providing information indicative of a failure to authenticate the digital credential information associated with the first user to a second relying party.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
storage configured to store professional license status information for a plurality of users; and
an authentication service configured to:

receive digital credential information from a relying party, wherein the digital credential information is indicative of a first user being professionally licensed;

verify the digital credential information using the professional license status information;

provide verification information indicative of a valid professional license of the first user to the relying party; and

provide information to the first user, the information indicative of ~~receipt~~ the provision of verification information indicative of the valid ~~digital credential information from~~ professional license to from the relying party,

wherein the authentication server is configured to provide the information indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information without regard to whether the relying party has received the valid digital credential information from the first user, and

wherein the relying party is distinct from the first user.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication service is configured to provide information to the first user at least by providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication information comprises registration information indicative of a registration status with a registration authority, and wherein the authentication service is further configured to:

verify the registration information with the registration authority prior to providing the verification information to the relying party.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58,
wherein:

the professional license status information comprises
registration information indicative of a professional license
registration status with a registration authority; and

the authentication service is further configured to verify
the registration information with the registration authority.

62. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 58, wherein
the authentication ~~server~~ service is further configured to:

store access information associated with the relying party,
the access information including information indicative of the
providing the verification information; and

provide the access information to the relying party.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58,
wherein the authentication service is further configured to
provide information indicative of a failure to authenticate the
digital credential information associated with the first user to
a second relying party.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication service is further configured to issue a challenge in response to receiving digital credential information associated with the first user.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising receiving, at the relying party, the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server is configured to provide the information in response to the relying party having received the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, further comprising a relying party configured to receive the digital credential information associated with the first user and relay it to the authentication service.

71. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein verifying that the digital credential information is valid comprises verifying that no disciplinary action has been taken against the first user.

72. (New) The article of claim 50, wherein verifying that the digital credential information is valid comprises verifying that no disciplinary action has been taken against the first user.

73. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication service configured to verify the digital credential information by verifying that no disciplinary action has been taken against the first user.